Subject: Star of the Order of the Garter

Case, Louise C.
[Chatanooga, TN]

1919

12 Vine St.,

Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 9, 1919.

The American Numismatic Society,

New York City.

Gentlemen:

I am sending by registered mail the "star" which I hope will interest you. I have no documents or ribbon but know that this star has an authentic history.. It may have descended through the Mombsys of England but my grandfather,, John Harris, a methodist clergyman, wore it on his cap when a baby, his only brother, Wright Harris, an artist was given the buckle worn on the garter. Grandfather gave the star to my mother, Maria Harris Burris, the youngest of three daughters, all born in England, and my mother gave it to me, (the youngest of three girls) born in America..

The Prince of Wales represents this order at coronation ceremonies, wearing a robe of blue. My grandmother, Ann Harris, was born in 1808 and grandfather probably at an earlier date as I do not know the exact year. I judge this ornament must have been in our family for several hundred years but no one seemed to care enough to trace its origin. My mother had the slide removed in Detroit in the 80ths.. There was on exhibit a buckle similar to ours which may have come through Canada, but have never seen a similar star. Its value is historic as an emblem of the greatest order in the world whose membership counts only those knighted for unusual achievement. Lord Grey was recently made a knight.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Louise L. Case.

September 13th, 1919.

Miss Louise C. Case,
12 Vine Street,
Chattancoga, Tenn.

Dear Madam:-

Your letter and the package came to hand yesterday. This is not the Star of the Order of the Garter. What it is I do not know. The Star of the Order of the Garter without exception always has a red enamel St. George's cross surrounded by a garter in the center. It is not a star of any order. I will keep it a few days and see if I can find out any significance to this star and will then let you know.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

September 23rd, 1919.

Miss Louise C. Case,
12 Vine Street,
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Madam:-

I am herewith returning to you under separate cover, registered, the star you sent on for our inspection awhile ago. From everything we have in the Library and conversation with authorities I can find nothing to warrant that this star has anything to do with the Order of the Garter. As I wrote you in my previous letter the star of this Order is much larger, of an entirely different shape and always has a St. George Cross in red enamel surrounded by a blue garter in the center of the star. I can not find any one to express an opinion other than that the star you have is but a piece of jewelry. I am very sorry to have to inform you of these facts and beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.